

collecting material from the seed balls on a sycamore tree. I watched her for a few moments and soon located the nest in the upper branches of an oak tree. It seemed to be completed, or very nearly so. I did not look into the nest until December 30, at which time I found two incubated eggs, so without a doubt, the bird had fresh eggs on the 21st of the month.

The bird sat tightly. The nest being in such a position that I was unable to reach it, I took a small twig and attempted to lift the determined little creature from the nest. She fought the branch, pecking at it and raising her wings in an excited manner, but would not leave until I actually lifted her off. Even then she settled back before I could see into the nest to catch a glimpse of what she treasured so highly. After repeating this operation three times, I succeeded in getting a good look. This last time, she flew to a branch eighteen inches or so from the nest and made a queer little protesting, scolding note and fluttered around within an inch or two of my head, while I bent the small branch, to view the interior of the nest. I was able, in this way, to get a thorough look just before the bird settled back on the nest.—ROBERT H. CANTERBURY, *Blaksley Botanic Garden of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, California, February 2, 1929.*

**Notes on the Avifauna of Santa Catalina Island.**—In checking over my notes kept during the past year on Santa Catalina Island, I find several records that are additions to the known avifauna of the island, and a few random notes that are of interest.

A new influence has entered into the bird life of Catalina Island within the past three years by the development of a fresh-water reservoir at Middle Ranch, near the center of the island. A lake was formed during 1925-26 by damming Middle Ranch cañon a short distance below the old ranch houses, in order to supply domestic water to the city of Avalon. A heavy rain in February, 1926, filled the lake to its present level. The body of water is approximately half a mile long and from forty to one hundred yards wide. It is probably sixty feet deep at the dam end and extends back to a marshy flat some sixty yards long and forty wide. This flat is overgrown with willows and cat-tails. Two hours of bird study at the lake a short time ago added four new birds to the island list.

Including the following additions, thirty birds have been added to the island list since the publication of Howell's "Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California" (Pac. Coast Avif. No. 12, 1917). The list now numbers 124 species.

*Aechmophorus occidentalis.* Western Grebe. One seen feeding in Avalon Bay, January 26, 1929.

*Stercorarius parasiticus.* Parasitic Jaeger. Two birds seen near Empire Landing, feeding after some terns, October 21, 1928.

*Larus californicus.* California Gull. Common around the island during the winter.

*Larus philadelphia.* Bonaparte Gull. Five in winter plumage seen in Avalon Bay, January 2, 1928.

*Anas platyrhynchos.* Mallard. Twenty birds were seen on the Middle Ranch lake, January 27, 1929. These birds are domesticated and were introduced by the Santa Catalina Island Company in February, 1927, when fifteen birds were placed on the lake.

*Dafla acuta tzitzihoo.* Pintail. Seven males and one female were seen on Middle Ranch lake, January 27, 1929. According to the ranch superintendent one or two birds were around the water last winter. The present flock had been on the lake more than a week before my visit.

*Plegadis guarauna.* White-faced Glossy Ibis. A mounted specimen in the shop of Mrs. Parker, the local taxidermist, was shot at Middle Ranch during the spring of 1927.

*Fulica americana.* Coot. On September 27, 1928, a bird was caught on the streets of Avalon in a weakened condition. Close examination showed no injuries, but the bird was unable to fly more than a few feet at a time. On January 27, 1929, eighty birds were seen on Middle Ranch lake, where they had been for several weeks, according to the ranch hands. A few birds were also present about a year ago, they said.

*Gallinago delicata*. Wilson Snipe. One lone bird flushed from the reeds at the upper end of the lake, January 27, 1929. It was closely observed during three short flights.

*Accipiter cooperii*. Cooper Hawk. A female, killed on the golf course at Avalon, during September or October, 1927, is now in the collection of the Avalon High School.

*Asyndesmus lewisi*. Lewis Woodpecker. Two birds were seen in the old quarry at Empire Landing, November 11, 1927. At Middle Ranch, January 27, 1929, two more were seen near the ranch houses. The birds had been around the ranch for two months, an employee said, and the roof of one certain house was their favorite morning playground.

*Passer domesticus*. English Sparrow. Extremely abundant around Avalon, and found all over the island. A nest and four eggs were taken, May 10, 1928, from a palm tree on the golf course. The birds also nest in the eucalyptus trees. As near as I can find out, the birds were seen first on the island about five years ago.

*Piranga ludoviciana*. Western Tanager. Two males seen near Wish-bone Loop, on the Coach Road, two miles from Avalon, May 13, 1928. A female seen near the new bird farm, Avalon, September 6, 1928.

In addition to the above new records the following notes may be of value.

*Falco sparverius phalaena*. Desert Sparrow Hawk. Lee Baldock, of Avalon, watched a hawk of this species hover over the steamer "Avalon" for fifteen minutes or more while the ship was in mid-channel, ten miles out of Avalon, October 6, 1928.

*Calypte costae*. Costa Hummingbird. A male was collected at White's Landing, January 26, 1929.

*Sayornis nigricans*. Black Phoebe. A nest and two fresh eggs were found on a beam under a bridge in Cottonwood Cañon, May 13, 1928.

*Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark. A flock of twenty-five birds was seen near the summit of the Coach Road on the afternoon of February 19, 1928.

*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Cedar Waxwing. Four birds seen in an old pine tree near Middle Ranch, January 27, 1929.—DON MEADOWS, *Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California, February 7, 1929.*

**Ringed Turtle Dove at Large in Los Angeles.**—The morning of February 24, 1929, found me for an hour or so in Pershing Square, Sixth and Hill streets, Los Angeles. Here I met with a species of Old-World Turtle Dove entirely new to my own experience and apparently not heretofore reported as out of captivity anywhere in California. There were at least twenty pairs about the park, commingling tamely with the human occupants of the rows of settees—active members of the "S. and A. Club". The doves were to be seen feeding from persons' hands, and the birds are regularly fed with grain by the caretakers of the park. I saw one pair of the doves tending two small squabs in a stick nest about eight feet above the ground on the forking branches of a palm.

I took down the following description from a bird (evidently a male) perched on the back of a settee within arm's length of me. "Size smallish, body bulk a little larger than that of Mourning Dove; tail square-ended; general color of body ashy drab all over; tail whitening toward end, but with slightly darkened zone toward base; a sharp, narrow, black-appearing bar across hind neck; iris red; bill dull lead-color; feet coral red."

This description proved to approximate closely that by Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, Part VI, 1916, p. 386) of *Streptopelia risoria* (Linnaeus), the Ringed Turtle Dove, whose native country appears to be unknown, but which is domesticated "nearly throughout the world". In America it has been "naturalized" in several of the West Indian islands. And in the United States it is "said to be established in the Bronx, New York City" (McAtee, U. S. Dept. Agric., Misc. Circ. No. 13, 1923, p. 74).

Enquiries by letter, of several persons I thought likely to know something about the introduction or occurrence of this dove in California, brought the following information.

Mr. George Willett of Los Angeles says that the Ringed Turtle Dove has been plentiful in Pershing Square for the past two years at least, probably longer, but that he has never seen it in any other part of that city.